

{HOTEL BARS}

WITH REFINED COCKTAILS, SPLASHY MENUS, AND SCENES TO SUIT ALL CHARACTERS, THESE SPOTS HAVE BECOME THE HOTTEST OF LOCAL HANGOUTS.



THE W

THE BAR The W Lounge (pictured above) strikes a balance that can please just about anyone. It's hip but not exclusive, crowded but not cramped, loud but not obnoxious. Most important: It has a killer drink list.

THE SCENE Suburbanites out for a night on the town. 100 STUART ST., BOSTON, 617-261-8700, WHOTELS.COM.

THE INTERCONTINENTAL

THE BARS RumBa (pictured below) commemorates the triangle trade with more than 100 varieties of the demon rum, while Sushi-Teq offers a menu mash-up of high-end tequila and imaginative sushi.

THE SCENE The creative class and their European sidekicks. 510 ATLANTIC AVE., BOSTON, 617-747-1000, INTERCONTINENTALBOSTON.COM.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DIANA LEVINE

THE LIBERTY

THE BARS Social opportunity abounds at three in-house nightspots: the lobby bar, for cocktails and snacks; Alibi, with its extensive wine and spirits list, burgers, and skewers; and the recently upgraded Yard, for the all-important outdoor option.

THE SCENE Twenty- and thirty-something rakes and fashion plates acting out the good life. 215 CHARLES ST., BOSTON, 617-224-4000, LIBERTYHOTEL.COM.

THE LANGHAM

THE BAR By day, Bond operates as a casual dining spot. But on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights it magically transforms into a DJ-driven dance party where the time of night can be measured by the skiminess of the outfits.

THE SCENE International students, club kids, exhibitionists. 250 FRANKLIN ST., BOSTON, 617-956-8765, BONDBOSTON.COM.

THE AMES

THE BAR Woodward, all leather and brushed metals, is a modern take on the Colonial tavern, a place where Ben Franklin meets Zegna.

THE SCENE Youngish bankers and lawyers who've graduated from their college bar. ONE COURT ST., BOSTON, 617-979-8200, WOODWARDATAMES.COM.

THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL

THE BAR M Bar and Lounge offers a refined respite from the bustle of Boylston Street, featuring dark woods, rich upholstery, and an broad selection of old-school cocktails.

THE SCENE The lucky folks who can afford units in the building; out-of-town parents being feted by their kids. 776 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, 617-535-8888, MANDARINORIENTAL.COM.